

RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

plot. With the intensification of the fifth-column activity in August the British decided to strike a blow. In the night of August 14-15 Mayr was arrested in Teheran by the British. Other Germans in the casual were also rounded up and interned. Those agents whom Mayr had sent to the Bakhtiyari country were subsequently lured to Teheran and captured. At the same time, following the Allied request, the Iranian police arrested some 170 Iranians as proven or suspected German collaborators. The list included a number of higher army officers, several editors and deputies, as well as many railroad officials. Of these, some were released soon afterward, but many were detained in the internment camps until the end of the war.

Thus owing to British vigilance the fifth column was smashed at the moment when it was about to fulfill its hazardous task. Only Schulze and his collaborators remained free for a number of months. Eventually, in the spring of 1944, the Qashqai chieftains surrendered them to the British authorities.

The defeat of German intrigue was complete when Iran declared war on the Reich on September 9, 1943.